

City of Rohnert Park

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July 30, 2002

Mr. John Olaf Nelson

Water Resources Management

1833 Castle Drive

Petaluma, CA 94954

Re: Response to New Water Agreement Framework Issues

The members of the Rohnert Park City Council have had an opportunity to review the June 3, 2002 Framework Issues to be Included in New Agreement Negotiation document, and to provide comments on the contents of this document. The following comments are submitted for the Water Advisory Committee's consideration.

I. Overarching Provision

- A. The "levels of reliability" mentioned in the quantification discussion should include the various factors, or forces, outside of the control of the contractors. This is similar to what is mentioned regarding the Eel River diversions, but should be broadened.

II. Conservation

- B. If BMP's are to be required, or penalties imposed for not meeting an implementation schedule, some allowance should be made in the schedule for adopting aggressive water conservation measures that go beyond the minimum required for meeting an individual BMP. This is, in effect, an incentive that may encourage members to set higher standards for BMP compliance.

Use the benchmark concept that would define a pre-conservation measure standard of water demand and that could be used to determine conservation project effectiveness. Use this benchmark to protect entitlements from penalty for having completed demand reduction measures.

- C. Coordination of conservation efforts with regional benefit would ensure consistency of application throughout the system. A broad interpretation of regional benefit should be encouraged. Each contractor should also have a means of accumulating funds for projects of specific local benefit.

IV. Watershed Management

- F. Explore the concept of a Watershed Management Committee to provide guidance in the development and implementation of a regional watershed plan.

V. Water Supply

- G. The concept of demand hardening should be addressed in this section so as not to penalize contractors with significant existing baseline recycled water use.

Develop a mechanism to encourage each contractor to develop and maintain local storage capacity, exclusive of SCWA capacity, equal to 1.5 times the daily monthly average of the month of highest historical use.

- H. Include provisions that encourage contractors to operate local supplies in a manner that reduces peak demand on the aqueduct system. In the case of wells that may be operated only during peak season when needed, as a planned use rather than as emergency wells, provide for an equitable repayment mechanism for the cost of maintaining the wells (water quality testing, etc.) in a standby condition.

VI. Recycled Water

- O. Participation in recycled water projects should not result in a reduced allocation level.
- Q. Funding for recycled water projects should include funding from the wastewater agency, and by individual WAC members for local projects, and/or all members for projects of regional benefit.

VII. Agreement Governance

- S. The two-tier committee should be supported, with the policy committee meeting less frequently than the technical committee.

Develop a formal means of communication between the technical committee and the policy committee.

- V. Encourage practices that enhance the electronic transmission of information as a primary means of communication.
- W. Only actual customers of SCWA should be represented in the negotiation process. If additional prime contractors are added, they must buy into the system in a manner that is fair to the existing contractors.

XIV. Basic Agreement Concepts

- JJ. Agree with JJ, not allowing one contractor to interfere with necessary projects. There should, however, be a pre-determined number of contractors that is required to approve a project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill Stephens
Public Works Manager
City of Rohnert Park

